



Research and Technology Advisory Panel (RTAP) Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Caltrans Headquarters, 1120 N St., Sacramento
Director's Conference Room (1121)

ATTENDANCE

Meeting called by: Genevieve Giuliano, RTAP Chair

Attending:

- RTAP Members: Dan Sperling, Jim Bourgart, Maged Dessouky (phone), Steve Ritchie, Susan Handy.
- Ex-Officio Members: Randy Iwasaki, Sunne Wright McPeak, Jim Bourgart.
- DRI Staff: Larry Orcutt, Nancy Chinlund, Judith MacBrine, Tori Kanzler, Paul Moore, Pete Hansra, Christine Azevedo, Eric Norton (Highlands Consulting).
- Caltrans Staff: Coco Briseno, Gale Ogawa, Joan Sollenberger, Jeffrey Ingles, Reza Navai, Nathan Smith, Leslie Snow.

Absent:

- RTAP Members: Pravin Varaiya, Samer Madanat, Brian Taylor.
- Ex-Officio Members: Will Kempton, John Barna.

PANEL BUSINESS

With a quorum of five, the RTAP Executive Committee members reviewed their September 20, 2007, meeting minutes. Steve Ritchie moved approval; the motion passed.

The Executive Committee agreed to meet three times a year: In January, late April/early May and late September.

Action Item:

1. DRI will circulate a calendar to the Executive Committee members to find the best dates for the next three meetings.

DETECTION ON STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

An Assessment of the Caltrans Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure for Traffic Monitoring and Management, written by Pravin Varaiya August 7, 2007, and edited by Steve Ritchie, January 21, 2008, was distributed to the Committee. Key issues identified in this paper included:

- *Lack of adequate State GIS-based road network data* – Caltrans has a base layer for the State Highway System in GIS. It lacks important attribute data on the highway system including: number of lanes, lane widths, speed limits, signals, and closures. Some data exist, but levels of “completeness” vary from district to district. With \$150 million from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and another \$100 million from the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), there are questions as to how these dollars are targeted.
- *Gaps in detection* – With Caltrans focusing on filling detection gaps, bond money has been set aside for cost/benefit studies on new detection technologies in 26 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) areas. Districts are responsible for implementing detection. Since each District has different preferences in detection technology, there have been challenges associated with varying levels of data quality and completeness from district to district.
- *Obsolete and/or unreliable technology* – An example of obsolete technology mentioned was traffic controllers that are too old to support current strategies.

Action Items:

1. Put Detection on the next RTAP Meeting Agenda. Invite Caltrans subject matter experts to provide more detail on the subject.
2. Have Steve Ritchie form a committee and expand on this topic. Questions to consider include:
 - What are the fundamental needs and requirements of detection and data?
 - Who is in charge of detection?
 - How can detection be centralized and who would oversee the mechanisms to do it?
 - What changes in organizational structure and staffing could Caltrans consider to achieve its detection goals?
 - What is Caltrans' vision/direction/needs in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term?
3. Have Caltrans demonstrate its Travel Information Map Implementation (TIMI) system.

UPDATE ON MULTIMODAL INTEGRATED CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT (MICM) WORKSHOP

The Division of Research and Innovation (DRI) hosted a MICM Workshop in Los Angeles at the District 7 offices. The workshop was well received by attendees. The agenda, presentations, and a summary of findings are available from the MICM website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/newtech/modal/micm/index.htm>.

The next workshop, tentatively scheduled for August 2008, will invite elected city, county and State officials as suggested by the initial workshop participants.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Note: Susan Handy arrived replacing Maged Dessouky who left the conference call retaining the RTAP quorum.)

Reza Navai presented a Climate Change PowerPoint. He described what Caltrans is doing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The RTAP discussed the CSMPs and the link between reducing average daily vehicle hours of delay and the reduction of GHG emissions. The RTAP noted that it could increase the CTC's awareness regarding the importance of providing mobility data to decision-makers. GHG data are currently at a state level. California lacks baseline GHG data at the regional level.

Action Item:

1. Revisit this issue at the next RTAP Meeting. Dan Sperling and Susan Handy will provide an overview of research on climate change taking place in California.

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST) / RTAP PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

RTAP has partnered with the CCST for three tasks:

- Task 1 – Background work on the process of planning for goods movement. How is the current process working?
- Task 2 – Planning is a long-term activity and technology moves quickly. How does this affect the planning process?
- Task 3 – Do we need other tools and models for planning and technology?

Gen Giuliano reported Tasks 1 and 2 of the project are underway.

The CCST website is found at:

<http://www.ccst.us/>.

Action Items:

1. Gen Giuliano will provide an update on Task 1 at next RTAP Meeting.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE STATEMENT

California currently has \$105 billion designated for transportation investments. This investment represents only a down payment toward a sustainable transportation system. How much will transportation cost California in the long-term? How will California pay for it? The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission just released a report on the state of transportation finance found at:

http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org/final_report/.

The RTAP discussed whether a similar report might be done for the state of California, but questioned whether it would be substantively different from the national report. RTAP discussed other options for discussing California finance issues, and considered a joint workshop with the CTC. The RTAP would invite members of the Commission to speak at this workshop. Potential speakers would include Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Tom Skancke, CEO, Innovative Communications Group.

Action Items:

1. Jim Bourgart will contact the CTC to see if they are willing to participate in such a workshop.
2. Giuliano will bring Brian Taylor up to speed on this item.

BOND PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

This agenda item was deferred to the next RTAP Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Judith MacBrine was introduced as the Research Program Development Branch Chief for the Division of Research and Innovation. Her contact information follows:

Phone: 916-654-8016.

Email: judith.macbrine@dot.ca.gov.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.